



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

We are looking for the next generation of African Leaders
Apply for the 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

Port-Louis, October 6, 2014: The U.S. government is inviting young African leaders aged between 25 and 35 years old to come to the United States in 2015 as Mandela Washington Fellows. It will be an unparalleled opportunity for selected participants to:

- + Interact with President Obama at a Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C.
- + Participate in a 6-week leadership and mentoring program at a U.S. institution.
- + Meet with U.S. government, civic, and business leaders.
- + Be a part of a dynamic network and have opportunities for continued leadership and career enhancement.

Applications will be available from October 7 to November 5, 2014.

Selection panels will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

- A proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business and entrepreneurship, or civic engagement.
- A demonstrated commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship.
- The ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and respect the opinions of others.
- Strong social and communication skills.
- An energetic, positive attitude.
- Demonstrated knowledge, interest and professional experience in the sector/track selected.
- A commitment to return to Africa and apply leadership skills and training to benefit the applicant's country and/or community after they return home.

For more information and to apply: <https://youngafricanleaders.state.gov/>

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The Embassy of the United States of America nominated six Mauritians and one Rodriguan for the 2014 edition.

About the Mandela Washington Fellows for Young African Leaders 2014:

Aarthi Burthony: Civic Leadership Track, Rutgers University

Aarthi Burthony is a blind activist. An intern at the Supreme Court of Mauritius at the time of her nomination for the 214 fellowship, Aarthi works today at the Director of Public Prosecutions Office. She is active in several roles including serving as Chairperson of DIS-MOI, a non-profit organization advocating for the promotion and the protection of human rights in Mauritius and the south-west Indian Ocean. Aarthi strives to educate people on disability rights and create an inclusive Mauritian society whereby discrimination on the ground of disability is non-existent. Under the auspices of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, through a partnership between Microsoft, USAID and IREX, Aarthi was selected for an internship with Microsoft in Africa starting this month.

Sabrina Gujjalu: Public Management Track, Howard University

Sabrina Gujjalu works at the Financial Services Commission. As Manager in the Policy Unit, she conducts research and analysis for policy formulation and drives the introduction of new policies, standards and financial products. She is currently involved in the establishment of proficiency standards for licensees in the non-banking financial sector as well as in the development of a regulatory regime for credit rating agencies. She hopes to use the skills acquired during her fellowship to support the development and diversification of Mauritius as an international financial center.

Vashil Jasgray: Civic Leadership Track, University of Delaware

Vashil Jasgray has over eight years of experience in the community development sector, especially in youth development. Currently, he is a Community Project Executive and Life Skills trainer with the National Empowerment Foundation. Vashil plans to create a team of young leaders who will work and empower young drug addicts and encourage them to participate in community activities.

Jessyca Joyekurun: Business & Entrepreneurship Track, Yale University

Jessyca Joyekurun has over six years of experience in the human resources fields and has been running Expand Human Resources for two years. She specializes in providing human resource outsourcing for small and medium enterprises. She recently opened two branches in Uganda and Tanzania. Jessyca intends to provide trainings and mentorship to entrepreneurs in Mauritius and in the East African region, helping them gain the necessary skills and expertise so that they can grow their businesses.

Zuhayr Panchoo: Civic Leadership Track, Tulane University

Zuhayr Panchoo current works in project management, fundraising and public relations. He has over six years of experience working and engaging with communities on different civic issues including poverty, human and disability rights. Zuhayr continues his work with several non-profits

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promoting civic issues with an emphasis on inspiring youth to be more active and engaged in shaping the future of Mauritius.

Marietta Agathe: Public Management Track, Florida International University

Marietta Agathe serves as the Deputy Project Coordinator for the Social Inclusion and Empowerment Program at the United National Development Program in Rodrigues. Marietta benefited from an additional 8-week internship in public management at the Franklin County Board of Commissioners in Columbus, Ohio. Back to Rodrigues, she plans to mobilize resources to improve waste management on the island and to conduct research to determine if there are correlations between the poor waste management system and the high cancer rate in Rodrigues.

Vandana Boolell: Business & Entrepreneurship Track, Northwestern University

Vandana Boolell is a business development executive at Temple Group, a multidisciplinary firm focusing primarily on legal, financial and professional training services in Mauritius. Vandana believes strongly in the power of information and how education ties into the discourse of empowerment. She hopes to influence national policy in Mauritius and foster an environment in which the government and people communicate freely.

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